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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/23/07

SPONSOR Picraux LAST UPDATED _____ HB 170

SHORT TITLE Southwest NM Care & Wellness Programs SB _____

ANALYST Geisler

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates: Senate Bill 155

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Department of Health (DOH)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 170, for the Legislative Health and Human Services Committee, would appropriate a total of \$250,000 to the Department of Health (DOH) for the following:

- \$100,000 to provide integrated primary care and family support services in southwestern New Mexico;
- \$150,000 to address regional health priorities identified by county health councils and other agencies in Catron, Grant, Luna and Hidalgo counties employing a regional approach in developing model wellness programs across organizational and geographic boundaries and leveraging resources across diverse health organizations.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The funding contained in this bill is not currently in the agency budget request for FY08.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Primary care and family support services are currently integrated in southwestern New Mexico. Hidalgo Medical Services (HMS) is a primary care provider in Hidalgo and Grant Counties, which has integrated Family Support Centers (FSC) into their medical services. Currently the Family Support Centers are located in Lordsburg, Silver City, Mimbres Valley, Bayard and Gila in Grant and Hidalgo Counties. The family support services include eligibility assessments for indigent fund, HMS sliding scale and Medicaid referrals to health and social services resources including housing, emergency assistance, income support, and senior services. The FSC also houses the Medication Assistance Program, support groups, education classes, workshops, and community meetings/organizing space and La Vida Diabetes Resource Center.

The Wellness Coalition (TWC) is a regional non-profit, which builds community capacity to improve health and wellness in Catron, Grant, Luna, and Hidalgo Counties. It currently administers a number of state and federal programs in the areas of: 1) substance abuse prevention, 2) access to health care and health services, 3) youth development, and 4) health information and telemedicine technology.

Each of the four counties listed in this bill is a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) designated Health Professional Shortage Area. In addition, Luna, Catron, and Hidalgo County and Bayard in Grant County are designed HRSA Medically Underserved Areas. The percentage of families in poverty from the 2000 Census is as follows: Catron 17.4%, Grant 15.1%, Hidalgo 23.9 % and Luna at 27.2% with New Mexico at 24.4%. Hidalgo, Luna and the southern most tip of Grant County are included in the La Paz agreement as a border county within 60 miles of the international border. Luna and Hidalgo County share a direct border with Mexico. Poverty and shortages of health professionals significantly contribute to health disparities in the populations of these counties.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

DOH notes that contracts for delivering the services envisioned by this bill would be subject to competitive bid.

DUPLICATION

House Bill 170 is duplicated by Senate Bill 155.

GG/mt